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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/865,441	05/29/2001	Doug Grumann	10002687-1	3760

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EXAMINER

YIGDALL, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2192

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/865,441

Applicant(s)

GRUMANN, DOUG

Examiner

Michael J. Yigdall

Art Unit

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on May 26, 2005 has been entered. Claims 1-6 and 8-20 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant contends that "Kutcher never discloses that the 'filters' 26 are in anyway coupled to or designed to operate with a specific application that the performance monitoring utility is designed to monitor," and that "instead, the filters 26 are specific to a performance monitoring utility" (Applicant's remarks, page 7, fifth paragraph).

However, "coupled to a specific application" and "specific to a performance monitoring utility" are not mutually exclusive characteristics. The examiner agrees that in Kutcher, each filter is specific to a performance monitoring utility (see, for example, 8, lines 43-48). The filters are thus "application specific." Kutcher further suggests "using the application specific interfaces, coupling the performance management tools to applications the performance management tools are designed to monitor" as recited in the plain language of the claim. Specifically, Kutcher discloses that the standardized data output from the filters is provided to client applications (see, for example, column 3, lines 47-53). Here, the client applications are

Art Unit: 2192

“performance management tools” that are designed to monitor the performance monitoring utilities, and the filters are “application specific interfaces” that couple the client applications to the performance monitoring utilities. This is illustrated in FIG. 1. Computers 11-13 include the performance monitoring utilities and are coupled to computer 14, which includes the filters and is further coupled to computer 15, which includes the client application (see, for example, column 3, lines 54-65).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 1-6 and 8-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contain subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 1 and 19 are currently amended to recite, “using the application specific interfaces, coupling the performance management tools to applications the performance management tools are designed to monitor.” Likewise, claim 12 is currently amended to recite, “the application specific interfaces couple the performance management programs to application programs that the performance management programs are designed to monitor.”

Art Unit: 2192

Although Applicant states, "No new matter is introduced" (Applicant's remarks, page 6, first paragraph), the examiner is unable to locate support for these amendments in the original disclosure. At best, the specification provides the following:

Fourth, the inventories serve as input to a step that uses the awareness of the computing environment to generate configuration files specific to the performance management software present on the computer system. The configuration files include collection parameters, application-specific interfaces, performance thresholds, and alarms applicable to the specific tools. (See page 2, lines 25-29.)

In an embodiment, a file generation process 130 uses the inventory file 120 to generate performance tool configuration files 140 specific to the performance management tools that are present on the system 100. The configuration files 140 thus generated may include collection parameters 141, application-specific interfaces 142, and performance thresholds/alarms 143 applicable to specific performance management tools. (See page 4, line 31 to page 5, line 2.)

In block 230, the configuration file generation process 130 uses the inventory file 120 to create configuration files 140 specific to the performance management tools shown in the inventory steps (210, 215, 220). The configuration files 140 typically vary depending on particular performance management tool, but may include collection parameters, application-specific interfaces, performance thresholds, and alarms specific to the tool as well as the current operating service environment. (See page 5, lines 21-26.)

Therefore, the "application-specific interfaces" are apparently specific to or applicable to specific performance management tools. There is apparently no indication that these interfaces "couple the performance management programs to application programs that the performance management programs are designed to monitor," nor is there any apparent indication of "coupling the performance management tools to applications the performance management tools are designed to monitor" using these interfaces, as recited in the currently amended claims.

Claims 2-6 and 8-11 are dependent upon claim 1, claims 13-18 are dependent upon claim 12, and claim 20 is dependent upon claim 19.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-6 and 8-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,590,056 to Barritz (art of record, "Barritz") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,301,615 to Kutcher (art of record, "Kutcher").

With respect to claim 1 (currently amended), Barritz discloses a method for automatically configuring performance management software in a computer system (see, for example, the abstract), comprising:

(a) inventorying applications (see, for example, column 9, lines 23-27, which shows a surveying program 12 for inventorying executable files or applications);

(b) generating an inventory list of the applications (see, for example, column 9, lines 27-33, which shows generating a system configuration log 66 or inventory list of the applications).

Although the monitoring and reporting programs disclosed by Barritz (see, for example, monitoring program 22 and reporting program 60 in FIG. 1) and other such performance management tools are inherently executable files, Barritz is silent as to whether any of the executable files included in the inventory are performance management tools.

Art Unit: 2192

However, Kutcher discloses a method for configuring performance management software (see, for example, column 10, lines 23-43) based on a plurality of preexisting performance management tools (see, for example, column 2, lines 30-34 and column 4, lines 26-30). Kutcher further discloses listening for or inventorying newly started performance management tools, so as to include the additional tools in the configuration (see, for example, column 10, line 64 to column 11, line 11). By leveraging the performance management tools provided by the operating system, the need for updates due to changes in the operating system is reduced (see, for example, column 4, lines 38-52).

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to apply the method of Barritz to a plurality of preexisting performance management tools, such as taught by Kutcher. For example, Barritz discloses that different operating systems provide different mechanisms by which monitoring program 22 can “see” events (see, for example, column 7, lines 51-55). In view of Kutcher, a plurality of such monitoring programs would be provided for the different mechanisms provided by the different operating systems. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the performance management tools in the inventory.

Although Barritz also discloses that the inventory provides system configuration information to the reporting program 60 (see, for example, column 8, lines 36-42), and thus the system configuration log 66 is considered to be a performance management tools configuration, Barritz does not expressly disclose:

(c) using the inventory list, generating a performance management tools configuration comprising specifying one or more of application-specific interfaces, performance thresholds, and alarms applicable to specific performance management tools;

(d) using the application specific interfaces, coupling the performance management tools to applications the performance management tools are designed to monitor.

However, Kutcher further discloses that the configuration includes filters (see, for example, column 10, lines 23-43), which are application-specific interfaces for each performance management tool (see, for example, column 8, lines 43-48). The filters or interfaces enable the use of performance management tools that have disparate output formats (see, for example, column 5, lines 22-26 and column 6, lines 10-14).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to supplement the configuration generated by Barritz with one or more of application-specific interfaces, performance thresholds, and alarms applicable to specific performance management tools, such as the application-specific interfaces taught by Kutcher. The modification would enable the use of a plurality of preexisting performance management tools that have disparate output formats.

Moreover, Barritz also discloses that the monitoring program 22 may be configured to monitor whether the licensed number of users has been exceeded and to issue a warning message (see, for example, column 10, line 50 to column 11, line 3). The number of concurrent users permitted and the warning message are considered to be a performance threshold and an alarm, respectively. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the performance threshold and alarm in the in the configuration.

Kutcher further discloses that the filters are used to couple performance management tools such as client applications to the performance monitoring utilities that the client applications are designed to monitor, as in step (d) above (see, for example, column 3, lines 47-53, and see, for example, FIG. 1 and column 3, lines 54-65, which shows the coupling).

Barritz also discloses:

(e) restarting the performance management software to engage the configuration of the performance management tools (see, for example, FIG. 6, which shows engaging the configuration at step 310 each time the reporting program is started or restarted at step 300).

With respect to claim 2 (original), Barritz also discloses the limitation wherein the method is executed upon start up of the computer system (see, for example, column 4, lines 53-56, which shows executing the method when it is first introduced on a computer system, i.e. upon start up of the computer system).

With respect to claim 3 (original), Barritz also discloses the limitation wherein the method is executed on demand (see, for example, column 4, lines 50-53, which shows executing the method by an operator or interactive user, i.e. on demand).

With respect to claim 4 (original), Barritz also discloses the limitation wherein the method is executed periodically (see, for example, column 4, lines 50-53, which shows executing the method periodically).

With respect to claim 5 (original), Barritz also discloses the limitation wherein the method is executed automatically (see, for example, column 4, lines 50-53, which shows executing the method by another program, i.e. automatically).

With respect to claim 6 (original), although Barritz discloses writing the inventory such that the information can be displayed and manipulated by well-known programs (see, for example, column 9, lines 34-40), Barritz does not expressly disclose the limitation wherein the step of generating the inventory list comprises writing inventory information to an ASCII-format file. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the inventory of Barritz as an ASCII-format file, so as to further ensure that the information can be displayed and manipulated by well-known programs.

With respect to claim 8 (original), Barritz also discloses the limitation wherein the inventory step comprises inventorying installed application programs and installed performance management tools (see, for example, column 9, lines 27-29, which shows surveying or inventorying products installed on the computer system).

With respect to claim 9 (original), Barritz also discloses inventorying active application programs and active performance management tools, wherein the active application programs and performance management tools are flagged to indicate an active status (see, for example, column 6, lines 58-65, which shows recording or inventorying active programs and an indication of whether the program is loaded from a library or is resident, i.e. an indication of the active status or a flag indicating the active status).

With respect to claim 10 (original), Barritz also discloses:

(a) manually amending the inventory list (see, for example, column 11, lines 16-25, which shows manually amending the inventory); and

(b) repeating the step of generating the performance management tools configuration (see, for example, column 11, line 63 to column 12, line 4, which shows repeating the step of generating the system configuration log).

With respect to claim 11 (original), Barritz also discloses storing the inventory list and the performance management tools configuration in a memory (see, for example, column 5, lines 35-40, which shows storing the system configuration log in memory).

With respect to claims 12 (currently amended) and 13-18 (original), the claims recite an apparatus that corresponds to the method recited in claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-10 (see the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4-6 and 8-10 above).

With respect to claims 19 (currently amended) and 20 (original), the claims recite a method that corresponds to the method recited in claims 1 and 8-10 (see the rejections of claims 1 and 8-10 above).

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Yigdall whose telephone number is (571) 272-3707. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 4:00pm.

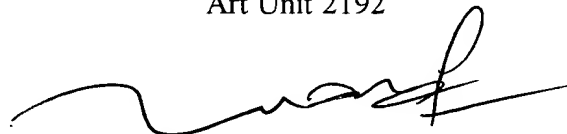
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571) 272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MY

Michael J. Yigdall
Examiner
Art Unit 2192

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER